

Business PORTFOLIO

From staff reports

DESTIN

Dennis joins Blue Marlin team

Los Angeles native Jordan Dennis has joined the staff at Blue Marlin Realty Group as a realtor.

With three years of real estate experience in the California area and nine months in Florida, Dennis joins the team at Blue Marlin after relocating to the area with his family a year ago.

Dennis, his wife and two children moved to the Destin area in February 2012 with the Marine Corps and currently resides on Eglin Air Force Base.

Dennis has more than 16 years of active military duty. His past work experience includes military aviation maintenance and building jet engines.

He is currently attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and will graduate in 2015 with a degree in project management.

His passion and experience in the Marine Corps has helped him find a niche for military buyers and

homeowners in the real estate business.

DeFUNIAK SPRINGS

Utility Solutions get subcontractor award

Ajax Building Corp. has named Utility Solutions Group of DeFuniak Springs as a Subcontractor of the Year winner for its commitment to teamwork, safety and a high level of quality in building the Northwest Florida State College Student Services Building on the Niceville campus.

The award was in the Site/Structural/Building Trades category.

Winners were selected from criteria based on the company's safety programs and practices, adherence to the project schedule, project documentation, their ability to contribute to a quality job for each client, and their overall teamwork approach in the performance of their work.

FORT WALTON BEACH

McDaniel appointed to Visit committee

Tammy McDaniel, owner

of Tammy's Journeys, was appointed to serve on Visit Florida's 2013-2014 Cultural, Heritage and Rural & Nature Committee.

Visit Florida is the state's official tourism marketing corporation and serves as Florida's official source for travel planning to visitors across the globe.

Tammy's Journeys is a full-service travel agency based in Fort Walton Beach.

For more information, go to www.tammysjourneys.com.

FORT WALTON BEACH

Ketchem recognized by ABWAECC

The American Business Women's Association Emerald Coast Chapter honored Shareen Ketchem, owner of SRK Fine Jewelry, as it's 2013-2014 Business Associate of the Year.

The mission of the American Business Women's Association is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and

national recognition.

The three other nominees for this award were Nivaska Eastwood, owner of Linck Photography, Mary Florence, owner of Baskets by Mary and employed at Eglin Federal Credit Union, and Elisa Rowland, an independent sales director for Mary Kay Cosmetics.

SHALIMAR

Fairfield Inn earns TripAdvisor award

Fairfield Inn & Suites Fort Walton Beach-Eglin AFB recently announced that it has received a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence award.

The accolade, which honors hospitality excellence, is given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor, and is extended to qualifying businesses worldwide.

Only the top-performing 10 percent of businesses listed on TripAdvisor receive this prestigious award.

To qualify for a Certificate of Excellence, businesses must maintain an overall rating of four or higher out of a possible five as reviewed by travelers on

TripAdvisor, and must have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months.

Additional criteria include the volume of reviews received within the last 12 months.

DESTIN

Finkler named premium advisor

Wells Fargo Advisors have designated Scott Finkler as a member of the firm's Premier Advisors Program for the third consecutive year.

Finkler is the senior vice president of investments for The Halprin Finkler Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors.

To qualify for the Premier Advisors Program at Wells Fargo Advisors, financial advisors must meet or exceed the company's high standards as measured by one or more of the firm's criteria for revenue generation, educational attainment and client-service best practices.

Finkler has been a financial advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors for 13 years.

He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from James Madison University.